

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

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CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

The New Paradise; The Bible's Last Message

- 1. And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.**
- 2. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**
- 3. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:**
- 4. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.**
- 5. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.**
- 6. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.**
- 7. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.**
- 8. And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.**
- 9. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**
- 10. And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.**
- 11. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.**
- 12. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**
- 13. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**
- 14. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**
- 15. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**
- 16. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**
- 17. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

18. **For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:**

19. **And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

20. **He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

21. **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

THE RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE

The angel showed John a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, originating in the throne of God, **“proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”** The throne is prominent in the concluding vision John saw. The river is pure . . . no germs, no disease, no pollution. It is not muddy - but bright and clean, clear as crystal.

In verse 2 John continues his description of the new Paradise by saying, **“In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruit and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”**

There are those who symbolize the tree, the fruit, the leaves - but why should we spiritualize anything so clear, so understandable, as Revelation 22:2? In the middle of the street and on either side of the river, John saw the tree of life - rows of them. (The tree is referred to as singular, but there are many trees).

Each tree bears twelve different kinds of fruit, yields a harvest every thirty days, and the leaves are for the healing of the nations.

This is the same tree of life of which Adam would have eaten had he remained in the Garden of Eden. God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden in order to keep them from eating the fruit of the tree of life: **“And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life”** (Genesis 3:22-24).

Had Adam obeyed God and refrained from eating of the forbidden fruit, he would eventually have eaten of the tree of life and would be alive today! God did not forbid Adam and Eve to eat of the fruit of the tree of life; He commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God knew that if Adam ate from the tree of life he would live forever in a body of sin - and thank God we will not carry these bodies throughout eternity; we will get a brand new body just like Jesus' body (I John 3:1-3).

In Genesis 3:15 God made provision for the spirit, but in Genesis 3:18 He made it very definite that the body would return to dust. Ecclesiastes 12:7 also tells us that the body returns to dust, and the spirit **“shall return unto God who gave it.”**

This tree in the Paradise of God will bear abundantly of luscious fruit, and the leaves are for the healing of the nations. The saints of the heavenly city will eat its fruit, the nations will use its leaves. If we desire to drink of the water of life and eat of the fruit of the tree of life, we will do so. Scripture seems to indicate that we will not have to eat, but we will be able to eat. After His resurrection Jesus ate literal food, and I believe the tree of life is for our pleasure and enjoyment.

Verse 3 is refreshing: **“There will be no more curse.”** The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in the Paradise of God, and His servants shall serve Him throughout eternity. They shall see God’s face, and His name shall be in their foreheads.

Verse 5 tells us that **“there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”**

Chapter 21:25 also tells us there will be no night there . . . no darkness; eternity will be one long, endless day of brightness. There will be no need of the sun, for the Lord Jesus will be the light of all God’s creation forever and ever. Thank God for verses 6 and 7: Speaking to John the angel said, **“THESE SAYINGS ARE FAITHFUL AND TRUE: And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to shew unto His servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”**

Throughout the book of Revelation John assures us that we can depend upon the truth of what is written. The book of Revelation is real, in spite of what is said by the liberals, the modernists, the haters of God and the spiritualizers. We are to read it and hear what it says. **“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein . . .”** (Revelation 1:3). In chapter 22 verse 7 we have almost the same words: **“Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book!”**

Revelation is one of the most important books in the Word of God. The most important book to a young Christian - one who has just been born again - is the Gospel of John, which will enable one to be rooted and grounded in the faith. A young Christian should then read Galatians and make sure that he knows the grace of God minus works, law, or anything else aside from pure grace.

Revelation should then be studied, because a special happiness is promised to those who study it, hear it, believe it, live by it - and keep the things written in it! Perhaps someone is saying, “Surely the Spirit must have been mistaken, because verse 7 says, ‘**Behold, I come quickly.**’” No, the Spirit is not mistaken. If you are suggesting that it has been a long, long time and Jesus has not come, let me remind you that you are a sign that He is coming soon! Peter tells us that in the last days there will be those who will say, **“Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. FOR THIS THEY WILLINGLY ARE IGNORANT OF . . .”** (II Peter 3:4, 5a).

People who suggest that Jesus is not coming, and who say that things “**are as they have always been,**” are willingly ignorant - and willing ignorance is inexcusable. One day is as a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years is as one day (II Peter 3:8); so you see, the Lord Jesus has not yet been gone two days!

He is coming quickly - it could be today! Personally, I hope He will come today. I join in the last prayer in the Bible: “**Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**”

THE BIBLE’S LAST MESSAGE

In verse 8 John again reminds us, “**I SAW THESE THINGS AND HEARD THEM.**” John is not writing down what someone told him, nor what he thought he heard.

He saw and heard these things, and when he heard and saw, he fell prostrate on the ground before the feet of the angel who brought the message and showed him these things.

In verse 9 we learn that the angel refused to allow John to worship him. He said, “**I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**” There is no person in Heaven or on earth who is worthy of our worship. We are to worship God . . . He is a jealous God and refuses to take second place. God wants us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, strength, mind, spirit, body . . . all that we are; and whatsoever we do, we are to do it all to the glory of God.

We are not to worship angels, cherubim, seraphim, prophets, saints . . . we are to worship God and Him only. The angel in verse 9 reminds John that he is a fellowservant. In Hebrews 1:14 we learn that angels are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation; therefore, they are not to be worshipped.

In verse 10 the angel said to John, “**Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.**” This is quite different from the command given to Daniel. In Daniel 12, he was instructed to seal up the book and rest until the time of the end. Daniel did not understand what he had written, and when he asked, “**When shall these things be?**”

God told him to shut up the book until the time of the end. Daniel sealed the book; now his book is being opened “**unto us upon whom the ends of the world are come.**” The book of Daniel did not need to be opened a century ago, but now the time is at hand; and we need to see and understand that all prophecy and Scriptures point to the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, His coming is imminent.

Please read the entire chapter of Daniel 12, and compare it with John’s command not to seal the sayings of Revelation.

Verse 11: “**He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.**”

This verse indicates that the peoples formerly of earth, now in hell, are in a permanent state, which was fixed and determined at the second coming of Christ in the Revelation when all the wicked were judged and cast into the lake of fire. (The righteous had been previously caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds in the air.) The sheep have been separated from the goats, the wheat from the tares, the just from the unjust. There will be no further opportunities for individuals to change in any way.

Notice the two classes of bad and the two classes of good mentioned here: The unrighteous as a class are contrasted with the righteous, and then the filthy are contrasted with the holy. The wicked will remain wicked; the righteous will remain righteous. All destinies are fixed now, all conditions are permanent. The eternal day has dawned.

Verses 12-13: **“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”** We are reminded of the certainty and the nearness of the return of Jesus . . . not returning simply to be cheered by expectant saints and sons (verse 7), but coming with rewards, many and varied, to bestow upon each one according to the quality and character of stewardship rendered. The least service—even a cup of cold water given in Jesus’ name will not be overlooked or go unrewarded.

The only One who can speak with eternal authority is speaking: **“Alpha and Omega . . . the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”** . Revelation comes to a close even as it opened, with these divine titles used in reference to Christ. None other can claim to be the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8; 1:17; 21:6).

God the Father is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent; so is God the Son. He was in the beginning with God the Father; all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. All judgment will be committed unto Him, and He is everlasting. Explain it? I cannot. If I could, I would be as wise as my God - and I am happy that the God I serve is far, far superior to me in wisdom, power and understanding. I thank God for a God whom I cannot understand nor reason out. I cannot put God in a test tube nor carry Him to the laboratory and analyze Him. I can serve that kind of God much easier, I can have faith in that kind of God much easier than in a God whom I could understand.

Verses 14-15: **“Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.”**

Romans 10:4: **“Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”** We cannot inherit eternal life by keeping the commandments. Here we are assured that those who live spotless, consecrated, dedicated Spirit-filled lives will be rewarded to the highest degree—or, as John puts it in II John 8, they will receive a full reward. Certainly there will be degrees of reward in Heaven and throughout eternity. Those who live spotless lives will be blessed (happy) and they will have the right to partake of the fruit of the tree of life, and they will have the right to go through the gates of the city.

Verse 15 does not mean that just outside the city limits are dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, idolaters, etc. This verse refers to the same group and place as Revelation 21:8. There is no need to be confused about this verse.

Those who are consecrated are happy, and happiness in this life will be rewarded with full joy and abundant reward on the other side.

Verse 16: **“I JESUS HAVE SENT MINE ANGEL TO TESTIFY UNTO YOU THESE THINGS IN THE CHURCHES. I AM THE ROOT AND THE OFFSPRING OF DAVID, AND THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR.”** We are again assured that this is not a riddle, not a book of confusion, but the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The things in Revelation have been sent to the churches.

I am not critical when I say that some of you dear people who read these lines have never heard a sermon on Revelation where you attend church. Ask yourself why. If God Almighty sent His angel to dictate twenty-two chapters of the Bible to John the Beloved, exiled to the Isle of Patmos for the specific purpose of receiving this great book; If God commanded John to pen down what he saw and heard and send it to the churches, why should any pastor refuse to preach Revelation?

Perhaps you have asked your pastor about it, and he said, “I do not understand it.” If so, answer him with these words: **“The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”** Then ask him to study Revelation with you. Start a week-night Bible class, and study every word in Revelation. Pray, search, and God will reveal what He wants you to know. We will never understand it all . . . no man will ever understand all of Revelation; but certainly most of us could understand much more about it if we would spend more time studying it.

A pastor has no excuse for neglecting to preach Revelation to his people. An evangelist has no excuse for not preaching it in his meetings. A radio minister or Bible teacher has no excuse for ignoring this book. Jesus Christ sent His angel to testify these things in the churches. Jesus Christ assures us that He is the root and offspring of David, He is the bright and morning star, and He will sit on the throne of David right here on this earth and reign in the by-and-by. Jesus was born King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2); He died as King of the Jews (Matthew 27:37). Jesus shall reign as King of the Jews (Zechariah 9:9). Not only is He King of kings, Lord of lords, and King of the Jews, but He is also **“THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR.”**

This great revelation of Himself - Jesus, the King, the Bridegroom - stirs the slumbering affections of the Bride. Her heart is moved. Jesus has kindled a fire in her soul which cannot be put out. She heard her lover say, **“I AM THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR!”** The Bride immediately answers, **“And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come!”**

The true Church-consecrated, true believers long for the coming of Jesus. We are not shirkers of our duty, but it would be wonderful if Jesus would come this moment! We would be caught up to meet Him in the clouds in the air. We would attend the marriage supper of the Lamb. What a glorious day that will be! No wonder the Spirit and the Bride say, **“Come!”**

Please notice, it is not the Spirit IN the Bride, but the Spirit AND the Bride. Both say, “**Come.**” Then each individual hearer says, “**COME!**” This is the day when every believer should be crying out, “**Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**” This is the day of grace, the day of God’s longsuffering, the day of God’s mercy. The call today is to every thirsty soul, to every weary, disappointed soul. The invitation today is, “**Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him drink of the water of life freely.**” Any thirsty individual is invited to take and drink of the water of life freely.

This the last invitation in the Bible.

A SOLEMN WARNING

Verses 18-19: “**For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**”

Verse 18 solemnly warns every man who hears the words of Revelation, that if that man shall add anything to the book, God shall add unto that man the plagues that are written in this book. I think it is all right to apply this warning to the entire Bible, but there is no doubt in my mind that it specifically has to do with the twenty-two chapters of Revelation. Revelation 1:3 promises a blessing to all who read it, hear it, keep it and obey it. Revelation 22:18-19 warns that judgment and fury shall be poured out upon all who tamper with Revelation.

Verse 18 warns concerning adding to the book.

Verse 19 warns the man who shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy. God will take that man’s part “**out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**”

You may rest assured that a born again, God-called preacher or teacher would not add to or take from the book of Revelation. Those who tamper with this book (or with any other book of the Bible) to make it fit their religion or denomination are not called of God, nor are they sent by God.

When verse 19 mentions taking away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book, it is not referring to a born again, blood-washed, redeemed child of God falling from grace or being taken out of grace, but to the fact that any person who tampers with Revelation (which a Spirit-filled, born again believer would not do) has cancelled his right to any part of eternal life and the joys of Heaven beyond the grave. He will burn in hell for tampering with the prophecies of the book of Revelation - or any other portion of God’s holy Word. To add to the Word of God, or to take from the Word, is to tamper with God, because “**in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh**” (John 1:1, 14).

So dear reader, if you are not born again, do not try to interpret Revelation! Do not try to explain it away. Read John's Gospel, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, give your heart to Jesus, be born again and then read Revelation, and you will understand the part of it that God wants you to understand. When you are born again you will not worry about the part you do not understand, because in the end, God will explain to us all that we were unable to understand in this tabernacle of clay.

THE LAST PROMISE AND THE LAST PRAYER OF THE BIBLE

Verses 20-21: **“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”**

In verse 20 the statement **“He which testifieth these things”** points back to all the things contained in Revelation. Thus the Lord Jesus assures us that the entire Revelation was dictated to John by God and truly is the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly!” This is the final message to the Church.

This is the last word from Heaven, until Jesus comes into the air above us and calls the Church up to meet Him in the clouds in the air. The Old Testament closes with the promise of the first coming of Jesus; the New Testament closes with the announcement of the grand and glorious second coming of our great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

When we speak of the second coming we mean both phases of it - first, in the air (I Thessalonians 4:13-18); second, in the Revelation when He returns to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:1-4). Both make up the second coming, and yet they are not one and the same. There will be at least seven years between the Rapture and the Revelation - the time when He comes as a thief in the night, and the time when He comes **“and every eye shall see Him.”**

The Old Testament closes with the words, **“ . . . I come and smite the earth with a curse”** (Malachi 4:6).

The New Testament closes with the precious words, **“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”**

“I come quickly,” is the last spoken word from Heaven. Heaven has been silent for almost two thousand years; I wonder just how soon Heaven will speak to us from the air, with the shout and the trumpet calling the saints up to meet the Bridegroom in the air. It has been a long time-almost two thousand years - of waiting, suffering, weeping; but His coming is much, much nearer.

Our salvation is nearer than when we believed. The gloom of this night is about to be changed into the gladness of His everlasting joy! The shadows of time are fast passing. The faint streaks of eternal day can be seen on the eastern horizon. Who knows? Perhaps this will be the day when Jesus comes! Weary pilgrim, take courage! Joy cometh in the morning!

In the last part of verse 20 we have the answer to the Lord's declaration, "**Surely I come quickly.**" The answer is, "**Amen! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**" John is here sounding out the testimony of every true believer.

Oh, yes - every born again child of God believes in the return of Jesus: "**For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**" (Titus 2:11-13).

The grace of God that saves us (Ephesians 2:8) teaches us to look for Jesus.

All believers do not agree on every minute detail of His coming, but all believers do believe in His return. Jesus says to weary pilgrims, "**Behold, I come quickly!**" And the weary pilgrims answer back, "Yes, Lord! Come! Come quickly!"

I know many times it seems that the righteous are in the minority and are fighting a losing battle; but not so. Sometimes we become weary and discouraged - but we should not. A thousand years is as a day with the Lord, and a day as a thousand years (II Peter 3:8). You may rest assured that "**THE LORD IS NOT SLACK CONCERNING HIS PROMISE.**"

The whole creation is crying out for deliverance (Romans 8:22). Persecuted Israel, sin-benighted individuals, an earth stricken with pain, heartache and heartbreak, men's hearts failing them for the fear of things which are coming upon the earth - the whole creation is groaning, travailing and longing for that glorious day when deliverance will come.

Many who groan do not understand for what they are groaning. Many who thirst do not realize for what they are thirsting; but the righteous understand. Believers know! The ONLY answer to the ills of earth is the second coming of Jesus Christ. Rulers, kings, queens, dictators and governments will never solve earth's troubles . . . only He who said, "**Behold, I come quickly.**" When He comes, men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. They will not study war, but peace will engulf the earth. There will be peace on earth, good will toward men as the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth; but this will never happen until Jesus comes.

THE CLOSING BENEDICTION

Verse 21: "**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**" That is just like Jesus, our wonderful Lord. His favor, His blessings, His goodness, rest upon all the saints. The strongest, the weakest; the mighty, the humble; the wise, the unlearned; the grandfather, the child . . . all are equal recipients of His grace. His grace rests upon all.

Through cloudy days, through days of sunshine; through long nights, through weary days; in the summertime, in the dead of winter; when all is well, when all seems lost, His grace is sufficient.

By grace He saves us. Through grace He keeps us. His grace never runs out - there is enough to last all the way - and then if we depart this life before the Rapture we have the promise, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” (Psalm 23).

Life eternal begins in grace, continues In grace, and comes to its final fulness in grace. Paul said, “I am what I am by the grace of God!” I join Paul in that testimony, for were it not for grace, we would all end up in the pit with the Beast, the false prophet, the devil, and the terrible group named in Revelation 21:8!

Thank God for the promise in Revelation 22:21: **“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints.”** I am glad I am one of those saints. I may be one of the least of the saints, I may be weak and insignificant - but praise God I am under the Blood, and therefore I am a saint! All blood-washed believers are saints.

Let me bring this study to a close by asking you: Are YOU saved? Have you been born again? I did not ask you if you belong to some church, or if you embrace some religion or if you have been baptized. The question is, Are you SAVED? Are you BORN AGAIN? Are you washed in the Blood? Is your name in the Lamb's book of life? If not, bow your head, receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, trust Him in your heart, and you have nothing to fear or dread. God's grace will save you, keep you, and present you faultless before His glory!

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!” (Acts 16:31).

~ end of book ~

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